

Application No.: 10/500,014
Amendment Dated: September 9, 2009
Reply to Office Action of: June 9, 2009

MAT-8566US

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on September 2, 2009. During the interview, Applicants' representatives explained to the Examiner that our "belonging HA" and our "new HA" are associated to a same home network 18 of the MN. After briefly reviewing Figs. 1 and 2 as well as pages 15-18 of the specification, the Examiner stated that the amendments raised new issues and will require a new search. Thus, Applicants' representative have amended all of the independent claims similarly to the proposed claim reviewed during the telephone interview.

Claims 1-30 are pending and rejected in the application. Claims 1, 9, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 28 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

On page 2, the Official Action rejects claims 1-30 as being unpatentable over Gwon (US 2003/0016655) in view of Warriar (US 6,707,809). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

**... a home agent selecting section for changing ...
from the belonging home agent to a new home
agent, the belonging home agent and the new home
agent being associated to a same home network of
the mobile node ...**

Claim 1 relates to the changing of a home agent (HA). Specifically, an HA is a router on the home network of the mobile node (MN). In one example, the MN belongs to a belonging HA. As the MN moves through the network, it switches from the belonging HA to a new HA. The belonging HA and the new HA are associated to the same home network of the MN. Thus, both the belonging HA and the new HA have the capability of receiving packets that are directed to the home address of the MN and then forwarding those packets to the MN's current care-of-address. This feature is at least shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and furthermore, supported on pages 15-17 of the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added.

On page 3, the Official Action suggests that Warrier teaches changing from a belonging HA to a new HA. Specifically, the Examiner cites Fig. 2 and cols. 5 and 6 of Warrier. In Fig. 2, Warrier teaches three HA's (18, 18A and 18B). Warrier's HA's 18, 18A and 18B, however, are dedicated to their own home network (they do not switch between home networks). This feature is supported in at least cols. 5 and 6 of Warrier (*"The system further includes a plurality of home agents 18, 18A and 18B ... one home agent will be usually assigned to its own home network, such as network 14 in Fig. 2"*). Thus, each of the three HA's are responsible for their own home network. As a MN moves from network 14 to another network, the mobile node will not switch to a new HA (it maintains the same HA). For example, if mobile node 10 in Warrier's Fig. 2 belongs to home network 14, then it will always utilize HA 18, it will not switch to HA 18A or 18B (the mobile node does not belong to those networks). Thus, Warrier does not suggest changing from a belonging HA to a new HA.

Furthermore, neither Gwon nor Warrier suggests a belonging HA and a new HA being associated to the same home network of a MN. Even if it were possible for Warrier's MN to switch from HA 18 to HA 18A, the HA 18 and 18A are not associated with the same home network of the MN. For example, if MN belongs to home network 14, then switching to a new HA (e.g. HA 18A) will result in the new HA and MN being associated to a different home network (not the same home network).

Applicants' claim 1 is different than Gwon and Warrier, because the MN is able to switch between a belonging HA and a new HA wherein the HA's are associated to the same home network of the MN (*"... a home agent selecting section for changing ... from the belonging home agent to a new home agent, the belonging home agent and the new home agent being associated to a same home network of the mobile node ..."*). For example, as shown in Applicants' Figs. 1 and 2, HA 11 and HA 14 are associated to the same home network 18 of MN 10. Thus, both HA 11 and HA 14 may function as an HA for MN 10. This feature is at least supported on pages page 15 lines 10-21, page 16 lines 15-25 and page 17 lines 1-10 of Applicants' specification (*"home agents 11, 14 are routers to which the mobile node 10 can be allowed to register the current care of address ... while an IP network is an electric communication line over which an IP protocol is supported ... selects a suitable home agent from a home agent information management table as a set of pieces of home agent information about neighboring home agents being held ... explanation is made on a case with the change from a home agent*

Application No.: 10/500,014
Amendment Dated: September 9, 2009
Reply to Office Action of: June 9, 2009

MAT-8566US

11 to a home agent 14, by using Fig. 2"). Thus, both HA 11 and HA 14 are able to receive packets directed to the home network of MN 10 and forward those packets to the current care-of-address of MN 10.

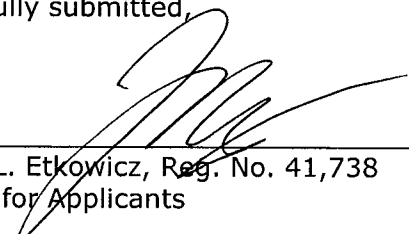
For example, as shown in Fig. 1, MN 10 is located in area 13. While located in area 13, MN 10 communicates with HA 11. Thus, messages directed to the home network of MN 10 are forwarded by HA 11 to MN 10. When MN moves from location 13 to location 16 in the network, it switches from HA 11 which was the belonging HA to HA 14 which becomes the new HA. Thus, HA 14 takes over responsibility of receiving packets directed to the MN's home network and then forwarding those packets to the MN's current care-of-address. For example, HA 14 would then forward messages to MN 10 in location 16. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 9, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 28 have similar features to claim 1. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-11, 13-14, 17-18, 20-27 and 29-30 include all of the features of the claims from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,738
Attorney for Applicants

RAE/fp

Dated: September 9, 2009

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

NM459577